

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF SANITARY ENGINEERING**

**CHAPTER 1200-5-5
SEWAGE DISPOSAL FOR PROPOSED SUBDIVISIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|--|
| 1200-5-5-.01 | Regulation I: Definition | 1200-5-5-.04 | Regulation IV: Review of Plat and Data |
| 1200-5-5-.02 | Regulation II: Subdivision of a Plat Plan | 1200-5-5-.05 | Regulation V: Reapplication for Subdivision Plan |
| 1200-5-5-.03 | Regulation III: Soil Absorption Tests | 1200-5-5-.06 | Regulation VI: Subdivision Plan Approval |

1200-5-5-.01 REGULATION I: DEFINITION. Definition of terms as set forth in Section 53-2009, T.C.A., shall be used in the interpretation of these regulations.

Authority: T.C.A. §§53-2002 and 53-2003. *Administrative History:* Original rule filed June 7, 1974.

1200-5-5-.02 REGULATION II: SUBDIVISION OF A PLAT PLAN. Whenever any person contemplates the subdivision of a plat of land where public sewerage systems are not available, except within the corporate limits of municipalities, the person shall submit to the health officer or Commissioner a plat plan in triplicate of such subdivision indicating the methods proposed for supplying water and sewerage services, and such information as deemed necessary by the health officer or Commissioner to determine the suitability of the proposed sewerage facilities. A plat plan for a subdivision shall be black and white prints to such scale as needed to show essential features and shall show the topography by two foot contours. The street arrangement, building lines, and proposed lot dimensions, with all lots numbered shall be shown on the plat. If a public water supply system is available or is to be provided, the water lines shall be shown. If individual or private wells are to be provided, the plat shall show a typical lot layout indicating the relative location of the building, well, and sewage disposal facilities with a notation as to the lots to which each such layout shall apply. The plat shall show the location of percolation test holes identified by number and the tabulated results of the percolation tests shall accompany the plat. Rock outcrops, marshes, springs, swamps, sinkholes, natural storm water drains, and other pertinent topographic features shall be shown on the plat. A general site location may shall be included in triplicate with the plat for ready location of the subdivision area.

Authority: T.C.A. §§53-2002 and 53-2003. *Administrative History:* Original rule filed June 7, 1974.

1200-5-5-.03 REGULATION III: SOIL ABSORPTION TESTS. Soil absorption tests to determine the suitability of the soil for absorption of liquid wastes shall be made under the supervision of, and the results certified by, a licensed engineer or architect. At least one percolation test shall be made for each 20,000 square feet of area and additional tests may be required where deemed necessary. Test holes shall be located in the general areas proposed for sewage disposal. Specific directions for conducting soil absorption tests shall be prepared by the Department and copies of such directions may be obtained from the health officer or the Department.

Authority: T.C.A. §§53-2002 and 53-2003. *Administrative History:* Original rule filed June 7, 1974.

1200-5-5-.04 REGULATION IV: REVIEW OF PLAT AND DATA.

- (1) The health officer or Commissioner will review the plat and data submitted and may make field investigations or require additional information if deemed necessary. After consideration of all information and data obtained, the health officer or Commissioner shall take one of the following actions:
 - (a) Approve in writing the subdivision as proposed.

(Rule 1200-5-5-.04, continued)

- (b) Recommend in writing to the person contemplating subdivision the corrections to be made to receive approval of the subdivisions.
 - (c) Indicate in writing that the subdivision or area therein are not suitable for individual sewage disposal systems.
- (2) The determination of the minimum lot size will be based upon the results of the soil absorption tests, the number of bedrooms per house, and other factors. The minimum lot size may vary in different areas of the subdivision.
- (3) Where a public water supply is available, the lot areas shall not be less than 7,500 square feet. Where a public water supply is not available, the minimum lot size shall be 15,000 square feet. Lot areas shall be more than the above minimum figures when soil conditions or other factors indicate the need for additional disposal area. No sewage shall be disposed of in an abandoned water well, a cave or sinkhole, or in a well dug or drilled for the purpose of disposing of sewage. The health officer or Commissioner may specify minimum distances between a portion or portions of individual sewage disposal systems and water wells or other sources of water as may be deemed necessary to minimize the possibility of contamination of any water source.

Authority: T.C.A. §§53-2002 and 53-2003. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 7, 1974.

1200-5-5-.05 REGULATION V: REAPPLICATION FOR SUBDIVISION PLAN. Any person proposing a subdivision may, after rejection in writing of the proposed plan for sewage disposal for individual lots or for the entire subdivision, obtain reconsideration of his case by submitting revised plans to the health officer or Commissioner containing additional data which would affect the adequacy of sewage disposal in the area.

Authority: T.C.A. §§53-2002 and 53-2003. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 7, 1974.

1200-5-5-.06 REGULATION VI: SUBDIVISION PLAN APPROVAL. The subdivision plan shall be approved by the health officer or Commissioner prior to inauguration of construction of any house or individual sewage disposal system. Furthermore, the location of the house and individual sewage disposal system for a specific lot shall be approved by the health officer or Commissioner prior to the inauguration of such construction.

Authority: T.C.A. §§53-2002 and 53-2003. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 7, 1974.